

16. a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein the distal end is percutaneously adapted to enter a pericardial space, advance over an epicardial surface, and approach the exterior of the left atrial appendage; and

at least one a closing element carried by the shaft adapted to close the left atrial appendage when the distal end of the shaft is positioned adjacent the left atrial appendage.

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17. (Amended) A device as in claim 16, wherein the closing element extends through the at least one lumen.

18. (Amended) A device as in claim 17, wherein the closing element comprises a grasping tool which extends through one of the lumens, said grasping tool being adapted to temporarily grasp the left atrial appendage.

19. (Amended) A device as in claim 18, wherein the closing element is adapted to permanently close the left atrial appendage while the left atrial appendage is being temporarily closed with the grasping tool.

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20. (New) A device as in claim 10, wherein the closing element includes means for closing the left atrial appendage.